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PRESENT CONDITIONS AND THE OUTLOOK IN MEXICO

By Elisha Hollingsworth Talbot, Honorary Member National Geographical and Statistical Society of Mexico

If we were to shape our estimate of the Mexican people of today by the law of biology which reads: "The most widely diversified types produce the finest offspring," we would not lack concrete evidence to verify this statement. There is ample proof of the cosmopolitan character of the Mexican people, who are as truly agglomerate nationally as are the Austro-Hungarians or Italians. While the development of these races, their blending and consequent attainment of cohesive national well-being, their strength in maintaining the latter (in spite of internal wars), and the preservation of their status among nations through all manner of vicissitudes attest the truth of this natural law.

It has been said that

The Mexican of today has the blood of more races in his veins than has any other American. Iberian, Semite, Hamite, Goth and Vandal, Roman and Celt, mingled their blood in that stream of brave and adventurous men who first set eyes on Yucatan in 1517, and who conquered Mexico in 1522. Like Spain from the remotest time, Mexico soon became the meeting ground of races, of peoples, of languages and of religions. Within the area of its original territory there were more families of native languages than in all the western hemisphere besides; and, to complete the chain, there were more kinds and grades of culture there. The Seri Indians of Sonora are as abject as the Fuegians, while the Nahuatl and Maya-speaking tribes of the Valley of Mexico and of Yucatan occupied the most elevated position for culture in the New World.

The origin of the Mexican aborigines is involved in that of the American Indians, since within the present boundaries of the Republic are gathered representatives of every zone from the Apache,—an Athapascan, whose principal home is in Alaska,—to the tribes of Oaxaca and Chiapas, who are the children of a torrid clime. There are now in Mexico perhaps ten times more Indians than were ever at any time within the United States domain.

T. Philip Terry, author of a hand book for travelers in Mexico, gives the linguistic families in the republic and their numerical standing, as follows:

Nahuatlan.....	1,750,000
Otoman.....	709,734
Zapotecan.....	580,000
Mayan.....	400,000
Tarascan.....	250,000
Totomacan.....	90,000
Piman.....	85,000
Zoquean.....	60,000
Tequistlatecan.....	31,000
Athapascan (Apaches).....	8,000
Huavan.....	5,000
Yuman.....	2,500
Serian.....	200

Prof. John Hubert Cornyn, long a resident of Mexico, founder of the American College of that city and an authority of high repute, says of the native rulers of the Indian races

Their whole tendency was exercised for the exaltation of the classes, and for the maintenance of the masses in political and social subjugation; [and that] these conditions having obtained, with some unimportant modifications, for close upon 2000 years in Mexico, they may safely be considered as normal. And here is where the would-be meddlers in Mexican affairs have fallen down. They have treated conditions existing there as abnormal, and have proposed to remedy them off-hand, as a tinker mends a leaky pan, forgetting that what is the growth of centuries can be eradicated only by patient endeavor intelligently directed over a long space of time.

When we realize fully the lack of education and its long line of benefits as applied to the great mass of Mexico's population, we may well marvel at the proven possibilities in that direction, for we naturally assume that centuries of ignorance must dwarf the capacity and desire to learn. Many exceptions to this rule have come under my observation in Mexico.

Thirty years ago I was present at commencement exercises at a young ladies' seminary in Morelia, the capital city of the fine state of Michoacan when there occurred one of the most inspiring incidents I have ever witnessed. Med-

als for superiority in various studies were awarded by the governor, in behalf of the state. Many students were in attendance, the great majority of whom were of white blood and belonged to the elite of the nation. But a young Indian girl, dressed in the simple garb of her race and station was, in the course of the evening, awarded three medals. Not a student belonging to the "superior" race received more than one medal. Yet this poor Indian who had never known the advantages of wealth or elevating surroundings dared not hope for other treatment through life than that of an inferior.

The principal of a high school in the city of Puebla once stated in reply to my question regarding the comparative scholarship efficiency of the Spanish or aristocratic student and the Indian, that, although the average proficiency of the former was considerably greater than of the latter, in all cases of which he had personal knowledge where a student far outstripped all his fellows and won first honors in his studies, the successful competitor was an Indian.

These and innumerable other instances of like nature certainly justify all that has been claimed for the Indian or peon of Mexico regarding his native intelligence and capacity for acquiring at least a practical education, and for the ordinary requirements and responsibilities of citizenship, including also the creditable performance of any official duties that he may, under the new "order of things" in his country be called upon to perform.

First and foremost among the purposes of the present or constitutional government of Mexico is the upbuilding of this great moral force and its direction into the right channels. This fact was evidenced in a most practical manner by President Carranza when, very shortly after entering upon the duties of his high office he sent a delegation of teachers to the educational centers of this country to study our school system with a view to the adoption of such of our methods as might be suited to Mexican conditions and needs.

A further proof of the intellectual possibilities of the Mexican Indian in the great problem of race development is

supplied by the splendid record these people have made in the realms of art and art craft, music, architecture, oratory, medicine, the sciences and in the broad field of literature. So potent are these characteristics of this interesting and misunderstood race that a modicum of its blood, introduced into the veins of the volatile and emotional Latin, becomes a wonderful balance by virtue of its steadfast, taciturn, virile, far-seeing and poetic qualities.

The conglomerate character of this aggregation of races and tongues and characteristics affords vast wealth of material for study by ethnologists. Baron von Humboldt, who was probably the most thorough of the many students of Mexico might have appropriately included its races as well as its minerals when he declared it to be the "Treasure House of the World."

AMERICAN INVESTMENTS IN MEXICO

It is both interesting and instructive to give here a somewhat detailed account of American investments in Mexico up to 1912, when the revolution had gotten well under way and had practically stopped the establishing of new enterprises and the operation of many old ones, both foreign and Mexican owned. These investments had reached a grand total of \$1,057,770,000 according to one of our consuls, while England had only invested \$321,302,800; France, \$143,446,000, and all other countries—Mexico included—only \$1,376,471,422. The American investments consisted of:

Railway stocks.....	\$235,464,000
Railway bonds.....	408,926,000
Bank stocks.....	7,850,000
Bank deposits.....	22,700,000
Mines.....	223,000,000
Smelters.....	26,500,000
National bonds.....	52,000,000
Timber lands.....	8,100,000
Ranches.....	3,150,000
Farms.....	960,000
Live stock.....	9,000,000
Houses and personal property.....	4,500,000
Soap factories, etc.....	1,200,000

Breweries.....	\$600,000
Factories, miscellaneous.....	9,600,000
Tramways, power and electric light plants.....	760,000
Stores—	
Wholesale.....	2,700,000
Retail.....	1,680,000
Oil business.....	15,000,000
Rubber industry.....	15,000,000
Professional outfits.....	3,600,000
Insurance.....	4,000,000
Theatres.....	25,000
Hotels.....	260,000
Institutions, public and semipublic.....	1,200,000

These figures are exceedingly illuminating. They not only give the reader an authentic basis on which to estimate the importance of the part played by the United States in the development of Mexico's natural resources, but show our confidence in her good faith and emphasize the magnitude of our opportunity and our duty as a commercial and financial nation, not only to deserve and hold the vantage ground already gained, but to extend and strengthen it in every proper and legitimate way. The door is wide open, and the extended hand of welcome bids us enter. Ours is the advantage of contiguity, reciprocal possibilities, neighborly obligations and mutual interest in the broadest sense of these words which are so full of meaning. But we must rightly understand and be understood if we hope to reap the possible fruits of this opportunity and these advantages in full measure.

And herein is the most important necessity at present devolving upon both Mexico and the United States in their relations to each other and to their common interest. It has been too long neglected. If, in recent years, one-half the money and organized effort had been devoted to disseminating the truth with reference to Mexican-American relations and mutual interests that have been devoted to a propaganda of falsehood conducted by designing political adventurers, much bad feeling, a vast sum of money, many lives and incalculable injury to future trade and industrial interests of both countries would have been saved.

It would seem that neighboring nations are no less addicted to the gossip habit regarding each other's affairs than are individual neighbors next door or across the street. The only difference lies in the degree of resultant injury.

AREA AND POPULATION

Mexico, the land of infinite possibilities, has a superficial area of 765,525 square miles exclusive of a number of small islands which, according to official statements aggregate 20,356 square miles. This enormous area is divided as follows:

	<i>Square Kilometers</i>
Adapted to dry farming.....	900,000
Mountain land.....	600,000
Irrigable land.....	190,000
Non-irrigable land.....	190,000
Occupied by cities, towns, roads, lakes and rivers.....	100,000
In actual cultivation.....	20,000

This area is occupied by twenty-eight states, two territories and a federal district. The superficial area of these is given officially as follows:

	<i>Kilometers</i>
Aguascalientes.....	7,692
Campeche.....	46,855
Chiapas.....	71,302
Chihuahua.....	233,215
Coahuila.....	165,219
Colima.....	5,887
Durango.....	109,495
Guanajuato.....	28,363
Guerrero.....	65,840
Hidalgo.....	22,373
Jalisco.....	86,752
Mexico.....	23,908
Michoacan.....	58,594
Morelos.....	7,082
Nayarit.....	28,371
Nuevo Leon.....	64,838
Oaxaca.....	92,442
Puebla.....	33,653
Queretaro.....	11,638
San Luis Potosi.....	62,177
Sinaloa.....	71,380
Sonora.....	198,496

Tabasco.....	28,871
Tamaulipas.....	83,597
Tlaxcala.....	4,132
Veracruz.....	75,863
Yucatan.....	42,600
Zacatecas.....	63,386
Federal District.....	1,499
Territory of Lower California.....	151,109
Territory of Quintana Roo.....	49,914

The population of the several states in 1910, in which year the last government census was taken, was as follows:

Aguascalientes.....	118,978
Campeche.....	86,500
Chiapas.....	438,843
Chihuahua.....	405,705
Coahuila.....	367,652
Colima.....	77,704
Durango.....	483,175
Guanajuato.....	1,081,651
Guerrero.....	605,437
Hidalgo.....	646,551
Jalisco.....	1,208,855
Mexico.....	989,510
Michoacan.....	991,880
Morelos.....	179,814
Nayarit.....	171,837
Nuevo Leon.....	368,929
Oaxaca.....	1,041,035
Puebla.....	1,101,600
Queretaro.....	244,663
San Luis Potosi.....	627,800
Sinaloa.....	323,642
Sonora.....	265,383
Tabasco.....	187,574
Tamaulipas.....	249,641
Tlaxcala.....	184,171
Veracruz.....	1,124,368
Yucatan.....	339,613
Zacatecas.....	477,556
Federal District.....	720,753
Territory of Lower California.....	52,272
Territory of Quintana Roo.....	9,109

To census Mexico fully has always been a difficult, if not impossible task. What with its vast mountain fastnesses so difficult to penetrate, its lack of transportation facilities and a prevailing prejudice, amounting often to absolute

superstition and even to actual fear, the enumerator has been met with disfavor always, and not infrequently with hostile demonstrations.

Add to these elements an ever present percentage of inefficiency, and you have at least reasonable justification for concluding that the total population was very considerably more in 1910 than was shown in the above table. For many years it has been generally stated to be in round numbers 15,000,000 in the entire republic; whereas, if we consider the natural increase since that year, together with the above and other elements which should be included in forming a fair estimate, 20,000,000 would, I am convinced, be nearer the truth.

It is particularly interesting to note the inconsiderable foreign population in 1910, as shown by the census reports (116,527) and divided as follows:

Spanish.....	29,541
Americans.....	28,639
Guatemalans.....	21,334
Chinese.....	13,203
British.....	5,264
French.....	4,604
Germans.....	3,827
Cubans.....	3,478
Italians.....	2,595
Japanese.....	2,276
Turks.....	2,907
Arabs.....	1,546
All others.....	5,433

There is food for reflection, both serious and amusing, in this brief and innocent statistical statement, if one takes the trouble to analyze it even in the most casual manner.

Ever since the political demise of President Diaz and the "cientificos," and particularly since the inauguration of the world war, the German colony in Mexico has been persistently used as a bogey, a counter-irritant and a reason for keeping a large military force on the north bank of the Rio Grande which otherwise would be dispatched to France and be employed in the work of helping to conquer the real German danger "over there." At no time has this bogey deserved a fraction of the attention it has received;

but at all times it has been practically without justification, and has been a serious reflection upon the American colony in Mexico which has throughout recent years been more than seven times as great in numbers as its German competitor, and certainly not its inferior in intelligence.

A close Mexican observer has asserted that in creating and maintaining this man of straw the few German propagandists in Mexico have succeeded in multiplying themselves and magnifying their importance, in the public mind, by many appearances and much loud talk in clubs, bar rooms and other rendezvous where their presence has been tolerated.

Surely the American, English, French and Italian colonies with a combined numerical strength in the proportion of 41,102 to 3827, according to the 1910 census, have been quite able to cope successfully with the Germans in Mexico, even if we include the "terrible Turk," and his 2907 compatriots who were domiciled under the green, white and red flag.

To the credit of Mexico be it said that of her own people only a small element of the Indian or peon population and those consisting of mixed German and native families, and of unscrupulous manipulators of ignorance, superstition and prejudice has ever yielded to the temptation of German gold or German argument in creating or perpetuating an unfriendly attitude toward the United States. The educated or intellectual elements, with comparatively few exceptions, have sympathized with the Allies, and especially with the United States, from the day we joined in the fight for world democracy. For Mexico has not forgotten her own fight against the encroachments of autocracy when she met and defeated the forces of Maximilian on the plains of Queretaro. Nor has she forgotten that the American government stood firmly by her throughout her supreme ordeal in advocacy and defense of the principles for which she fought. It was more than a revolution—it was a rebellion, not only against autocracy but against outside dictation in her own affairs.

In Mexico, life has been more or less of a discouraging

struggle for the protection of human rights, the establishment of high ideals, and the permanent maintenance of democratic principles through a republican form of government since long before the Cortez gold hunters set foot on the sands of Vera Cruz. The country seems to have inherited more than her share of peace disturbing ills. She has not merited them. They have been forced upon her for the gratification of selfish ends, or worse.

In the long years of autocratic rule in Mexico, which did not end with the beginning of a democratic form of government, there grew up a political and social system which gained strength as the years passed. The idle few, whose wealth had been inherited from idle ancestors, occupied the choicest seats at the nation's table, framed and administered the laws for the government of the many who for centuries were not permitted to have any part either in creating public sentiment or in acquiring the simplest rudiments of mental or moral advancements. Employment meant peonage, and peonage meant slavery. The favored few were awarded immense tracts of the richest land, and the down-trodden many were compelled to cultivate it in return for the miserable privilege of an existence that had neither the stimulus of ambition nor the comfort of hope. And what the greedy employer did not withhold, the ruling church exacted.

I have in my library a volume published some years ago by the Mexican government, containing tables showing that of the total number of children born in the country, more than one-half are "illegitimate." Investigate the occasion for this statement and you will find the answer in the fact that the Indian has been kept in such abject poverty that he has not as a rule been able to accumulate enough money to pay the priest for performing the marriage ceremony.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

It does not require the mind of a great financier to appreciate the magnitude of the financial problem which unavoidably demands a very large part of official Mexico's attention at this time.

The latest official statement places the total debt of the country, June 30, 1917, at a little above \$311,000,000 gold. This includes not only the revolutionary period but the pre-revolutionary, and excludes the debts contracted by Huerta and Villa, except \$5,000,000 which the latter was authorized to incur. This amount, it has officially been asserted was without authority increased by him to several hundred million dollars, a considerable portion of which the arch traitor and notorious bandit no doubt appropriated to himself and a few of his favorite partners in crime.

The extent of damage obligations incurred through the revolution has not yet been ascertained, but will be, in due course; and when ascertained will be adjusted and settled fairly and to the satisfaction of all concerned. I am assured from entirely reliable sources that every consideration will be extended to all legitimate claimants and their claims, and that no thought of shirking responsibility has ever been entertained by the present government.

Since 1910 the finances of Mexico have constantly experienced the disturbing influence of revolution, to which cause was added in 1914, the great war in Europe; and lately, the entrance of the United States into the conflict between the contesting forces of democracy and autocracy. Yet throughout this entire period the government has been able, without borrowing a single dollar from outside sources, to pay promptly all current obligations and keep the wheels of government running smoothly, and to maintain her financial and commercial standing.

In 1881 the total national revenue (Mexican money), was \$6,155,356, and the expenditures were \$5,757,547, and in 1909 the revenue was \$24,443,830 and the expenditures were \$23,752,887. In the fiscal year 1912-1913, which saw the triumph of the revolution initiated by Venustiano Carranza, the revenue amounted to \$120,958,902, and the expenditures \$110,781,871.

The Diaz régime surrendered the reins of government in May, 1911, and the period between that date and the accession to power of the Carranza or Constitutional party included the brief reigns of Madero and Huerta.

Since the adoption of the general plan of the Constitutional party and its orderly enforcement, there has been a marked increase of Federal revenue. To illustrate, I take the months of May, June, July and August, 1917, in which the treasury receipts were \$26,707,674.

The most rigid economy is being practiced in all departments of the government.

In the two years beginning with the spring of 1916 Dr. Alfredo Caturegli, Mexico's financial agent in this country, disbursed at his office in New York City over \$40,000,000, gold, in connection with many and varied financial and industrial transactions. And this incident is only one link in the endless chain of reasons why closer and ever closer relations between Mexico and the United States should be earnestly and unceasingly and by every proper means encouraged. To neglect this reciprocal duty is to close the door against golden opportunity.

Mexico needs money with which to develop more rapidly her manifold and incomparable natural resources, and incidentally, render more valuable the opportunity which she offers to American capital and enterprise. A hundred million dollars loaned her would not only be absolutely without risk, but would open wider the door of opportunity to American capital and enterprise, and narrow it in corresponding ratio, to our competitors. The suggestion is both natural and practical; and if not within the province of our government at this time, should appeal to our great bankers and capitalists.

Germany covets the Mexican market and is already planning to recapture at least a big slice of it. Not very long ago her merchants practically controlled the larger part of it, and more recently have fought hard to regain lost advantage and declining prestige. They have hoped to accomplish this purpose by a sickly and disreputable propaganda through the German colony in Mexico. The last prop on which rested this hope was knocked from under it when the German army surrendered to the Allies and the Kaiser dissolved his assumed partnership with God.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

How important it is to the commerce of this country to deserve and cultivate the favor and friendship of the Mexican government and the Mexican people can be best understood by a study of recent export and import tables with respect to a few of the articles of commerce which enter most extensively into Mexican-American trade. Although the less important articles are in themselves sufficient to illustrate my contention and to point out many avenues leading to possible profit, lack of space bids me omit them from this necessarily incomplete presentation of a very big subject.

For present consideration I confine myself to these articles which were exported from Mexico in the fiscal year 1912-13. Their value is given in gold:

Gold ore, dust, bullion, cyanides and sulphides.....	\$19,361,435
Silver ore, bar, cyanides and sulphides.....	99,939,500
Copper and copper ore.....	18,262,205
Sisal hemp*.....	15,066,877
Sugar Cane.....	5,631,850
Charcoal.....	4,188,175
Garbanzos (chick peas).....	2,465,181
Lead.....	2,453,285
Chicle (chewing gum).....	2,170,936
Ixtle.....	1,823,220
Hard and cabinet woods.....	1,682,565
Vanilla.....	1,657,735
Cattle hides.....	4,124,200
Cattle.....	3,459,253
Goat hides.....	1,225,118
Deer hides.....	189,362
Horses.....	117,861
Grass root.....	980,166
Antimony.....	798,250
Beans.....	580,322
Fruits.....	509,349
Raw tobacco.....	501,305

* In the year 1917, when the high prices of sisal hemp exacted by the Comision Reguladora de Henequen prevailed, the cash receipts from the product amounted to \$52,220,000, gold.

Of the leading industries of Mexico in which the United States is especially interested the group which may be ap-

propriately designated as the Big Three are: Mining, Oil, and Agriculture.

The individual articles which enter most extensively into Mexico's export commerce and of which we are the buyer and consumer are: silver, gold, copper, sisal hemp, oils, coffee, hides and skins, cattle, chick peas, sugar, chicle, rubber, hard and cabinet woods, and charcoal. Her imports cover a wider range of articles. The leading ones, in value, are: cotton goods, iron pipe, woolen goods, lumber, shoes, canned meats, railway supplies, cyanides, drugs, alcohol, fire arms, tools, musical instruments, copper, brass and bronze goods, furniture, leather, agricultural implements, iron goods, structural steel, wood manufactures, glass ware, hats, wine in barrels and bottles, printed paper goods, automobiles, dried and preserved fruits and explosives.

To prepare a complete list of articles entering into the reciprocal commerce possible between Mexico and the United States would be a difficult task. It would be equally difficult to estimate the value in dollars of the immense trade possibilities encompassed within this ever broadening opportunity for mutually profitable commercial and industrial enterprises. The only present barriers against its speedy and limitless development are artificial and can be forever obliterated by a persistent propaganda of truth, which shall not cease until falsehood and prejudice and misunderstanding have been permanently conquered.

The marvelous growth of the oil industry in Mexico in the few years that have passed since the first well was sunk renders every authentic statement relating to the subject surprising to all students of economics. Human credulity finds it difficult to realize that between 1905 and 1917 the wells of Mexico increased their output of oil from 300,000 barrels in the former year, to 55,292,770 barrels in the latter.

The principal oil fields of Mexico occupy a triangle of an 18,000 square mile zone extending from the seashore to the Sierra Madre mountains, the three districts of greatest production being Tantoyuca, Tuxpan and Papantla. Over 72

per cent of the oil lands within this zone are controlled by "groups," in these proportions:

	<i>hectares</i>
Pearson group.....	564,095
La Corona group.....	408,385
Doheny group.....	227,477
French-Spanish group.....	145,666
Mestros group.....	76,222
Penn. Mex. group.....	67,110
Explotadoro Petrolifera group.....	63,913

The output in 1917, wonderful though it was, would probably have been increased to over a hundred million barrels if the necessary means for transporting it to the seaboard and thence to the consumer had been provided. And still the story is not complete. Thus far it has stated actualities only. If we include the potential or possible output of all the wells of Mexico the sum total, according to a recognized authority would now reach 488,000,000 barrels annually. Add to this last estimate the new wells which may reasonably be expected to enter the producing arena each year, and the result is staggering.

The exportation of manufactured articles from Mexico has been so insignificant since the beginning of the revolution, and especially since the United States entered into the world war, as hardly to justify tabulation. Only five articles, drugs, sugar, cotton seed flour, cigars and cigarettes and bran exceeded \$100,000 gold each, in value. This drop was chiefly due to disorganized labor and other internal troubles, and to restrictions upon international trade incident to the war, all of which will soon be removed.

It would be difficult to estimate the benefit to commerce directly and to the human race indirectly, and especially to the cause of world democracy in the war now so happily ended, for which credit must be given to the great oil fields, and to the unwavering action of the Mexican government not only in preventing threatened German inspired interference with the production of oil but with its delivery to the allied war fleets and to the innumerable industries co-operating in this greatest work of human mind and human brawn.

At no time in the progress of the conflict was it impossible

for the Mexican government to stop the flow of its oil into the reservoirs of Germany's enemies. But it never contemplated such action for a moment. And at no time has that government or any considerable element of its intelligent following entertained other than the most friendly sentiment toward the United States and actual sympathy with the cause of the Allies. This would have been expressed in no uncertain tones and with inspiring promptness if occasion for the abandonment of the policy of neutrality had at any period in the great conflict arisen. They who for a moment give ear to the contrary belief do Mexico great injustice.

To the writer, Mexico's ambassador at Washington has more than once stated his country's policy with reference to the war on the other side as one of beneficent neutrality. Would any other policy, in view of the facts that she had no navy, no surplus cash in her treasury, a small and indifferently equipped army, no real excuse for injecting herself into the conflict and no need of supplies which were not already going to the Allies, have been wise? But a more potent reason than any of these was the fact that she had troubles and problems of her own quite sufficient to tax her resources and test her brain power and physical possibilities.

Mexico is on trial before the high court of public sentiment, and her case should not be prejudiced by false testimony, religious intolerance, political schemers, sordid motives or other improper influence. From these sources she has already suffered almost to the limit of human endurance, and to the discredit of our own country must the admission be made that within our borders have these wrongs originated and been chiefly exploited.

When it is recalled that the original area of Mexico was 1,650,000 square miles, or a little more than twice its present dimensions, and that the enormous extent of territory which she lost to the United States was wrongfully taken can the reasonable mind wonder if there still remains in the Mexican heart a remnant of resentment toward the greater nation which despoiled her of this heritage of inestimable value? Rather wonder that in the brief space of half a cen-

ture so much has been forgiven and forgotten. It is asking a great deal to expect that our neighbor across the border can so soon—for fifty years is only an insignificant span in the world's great bridge of centuries—with absolute composure glance northward and with one sweep of his mental vision encompass the splendid states of Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and a part of Kansas—a territory eight times as large as Great Britain—and realize without at least a slight feeling of resentment that only a short time ago every acre of this enormous empire belonged to him.

A misunderstanding of facts and policies is responsible for most of the charges brought against the Mexico of today, in print, on the platform and in private circles. Unreliable sources of information, a deliberately planned and far-reaching propaganda of falsehood, and inadequate efforts to counteract the effects of this propaganda are responsible for this unfortunate condition.

One of the most serious of these charges relates to the rights of aliens to hold property, engage in business and to assert and defend their legal rights. The impression has quite generally prevailed in the United States that no alien can hold property in Mexico without first becoming a citizen of the country, which would of course mean the renunciation of citizenship elsewhere, as one cannot serve two masters at the same time. On the contrary, the new constitution provides that any foreign corporation or individual may acquire and enjoy the use and profits of lands, concessions to work mines or to exploit waters or mineral fuel the same as natives, provided they make a declaration at the Department of State agreeing to be considered as Mexicans in all matters relating to such property, and to submit all legal questions to the courts of Mexico. And they are not permitted to meddle in Mexico's political affairs. Can reasonable objection be made to these requirements?

A semi-official pamphlet recently printed in English for distribution by the Mexican government asserts that "conditions of life for foreigners in Mexico are almost privileged.

They are treated as guests of honor, and the Mexican hospitality is proverbially generous and courteous. They enjoy all the guarantees and rights accorded to Mexicans, and are exempt from the duties and obligations of citizenship."

Race development in Mexico is advancing more rapidly under present influences than in any period of the past, not even excepting the most affluent and wonderful reigns of the Mayan and Toltec and Aztec kings, which represented a civilization in many respects unsurpassed in the world's history.

These influences are represented in the practical measures being inaugurated by the present government which may be briefly summed up as:

The transfer of power from a privileged autocratic few to the developing masses.

The providing of universal education in the fullest sense of the term.

The diverting of hundreds of millions of uncultivated acres from land barons who have kept them from producing either food for man and beast, or taxes for the government, to the peon class by which they will be industriously cultivated.

The discontinuance of special privileges.

The creation of a great middle class.

The elevation of the laboring classes to their proper position.

The introduction of modern farm methods and implements.

The abolition of the last vestige of peonage.

The prohibition of monopoly or trade limitation.

The advancement of Woman to her proper status as a citizen.

The prohibiting of bull-fighting and gambling and the restricting of the traffic in intoxicating liquors.

The freedom of the press.